

SENATOR F. LEWIS: Mr. Chairman, after that scathing attack I can hardly get back up, but I'm going to try. I'm going to say exactly what I said before. My command of the English language has never been criticized so much, and I will try to come back from that. This is a minor issue. This is not the general issue of the good or evil of prohibition. The issue before us is very simple. There has been a request from the Fine Arts Center in Omaha to sell liquor because they already have evinced that it is there, and they have to take from their existing funds to provide it, or they sell it. Just like the three day events do for your annual firemans whatever you have, some of the church activities, some of all of those things. Now Senator Chambers wants to get to the floor and say this is an issue of substance, and this is the issue in terms of whether or not we have liquor in the country or not. It is not. He is absolutely true. It is not like using a broom to sweep the Pacific Ocean back, but it is like using one straw of the broom to do it. That is how significant it is. Now Senator Chambers wants to turn this into a mammoth bill. He might have succeeded in some of your minds, but at least, Senator Chambers, I understand one word of the English language and they understand it in Oklahoma too and that is when something is minor it is minor. No matter how much feed you feed a gnat, whether it's bails, whether it's hundreds of pounds it's still a gnat. No one has ever turned a gnat into the Jolly Green Giant.

PRESIDENT: Senator Maxey.

SENATOR MAXEY: Mr. President, fellow senators. We neglect to remember that children go to our museums, our fine arts establishments. I object that we should have liquor on the premises when our children are there, they see the end result of the liquor. I just believe that we should leave it as it is and no liquor should be able to be sold at the Art Museum.

PRESIDENT: Senator Stoney.

SENATOR STONEY: Mr. President, members of the Legislature. I also rise in opposition to LB 237. I was not supportive of this issue when it was introduced. The Orpheum Theater was allowed to dispense liquor. I don't feel it is a matter of prohibition. I, myself, imbibe on occasion. But I do feel that a museum of fine arts should be and should remain a museum of fine arts. I don't think that it is necessary to have to dispense liquor to have people come and enjoy what they might receive from such a museum. I think there are sufficient places for individuals to partake of such spirits. You can drive up and down the streets and that is self-evident. Once again I believe it is principle, it is not prohibition. I think that we should, in all good conscience, not allow the Joslyn Museum to dispense alcoholic beverages. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Senator Savage, would you close debate on this matter please.

SENATOR SAVAGE: I have no special closing, except that I would like to point out that this is only for three occasions in one year, three times in one year. The liquor isn't being dispensed all day long while children are coming into the art museum. This is for special occasions only, for a fund raising group of adults. It is held in the evening on three occasions during the year. It is not that big a deal that has caused all this furor. I move that it be passed over to E & R initial.